

## THE EVENING MISSOURIAN

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## MISSOURI SCHOOLS

In the sixty-seventh annual report of the state superintendent of schools there is an appalling amount of statistical material, a summary of which indicates the vast extent of our public school system today. Uel W. Lamkin, state superintendent, has just issued the printed report for 1916, with complete statistics covering that year. The total school enrollment in 1916, including the grade and high schools only, was 721,752. This army of nearly three-quarters of a million pupils was officered by 20,208 teachers.

The statistics show that the educational system of the state is reaching more and more of the children of school age each year. The total enrollment for 1916 is from a total enumeration of 925,504 persons of school age in the state, or a percentage of enrollment of 77.9. This is somewhat more than the average for the north central division of states in which Missouri is located, and it is considerably over the average of the whole United States, which is only a fraction over 73 per cent. The report shows that the compulsory school laws are being obeyed, and that those of school age are remaining longer at their school work.

Out of the total number enrolled, 59,285 are in the high schools of the state. Of this latter number, 48,564 are enrolled in the first class, approved high schools. In 1916, 7,866 were graduated from the high schools. In connection with the report on the high schools of the state, Superintendent Lamkin points out that the efforts of the department have been mainly directed toward proper classification and organization of the teaching forces of the schools. The board is seeking to obtain a greater differentiation of function between the city superintendent of schools and the principal of the high school. In too many cases the work of both offices is combined in one. It is also pointed out that in too many cases the principal of the high school is also one of the teaching force, and that his time is usually so taken up with classroom work that he has little left for actual supervision.

The report shows that financially the schools of Missouri are being conducted very economically. The total annual expenditure per child enumerated is much lower than in many states of this division, and it is shown that the efficiency and general quality of teaching in the schools are by no means impaired. The necessity for better pay for our school teachers, however, is apparent. It costs the state \$27.08 annually to maintain the school system for every child enrolled in the state. The report by Mr. Lamkin contains other equally informative data on special phases of education in the state.

## CONCRETE SHIPS

To combat the scarcity of timber for ships, the concrete ship has appeared and promises to be highly successful. This marks the successful culmination of theories which long were laughed at by most scientific men and seemed impracticable to most laymen. Small concrete boats have been made in this country successfully, but it has remained for Norway, a neutral which has suffered heavily from the German U-boat campaign, to build and successfully operate the first large freighter of reinforced concrete.

This ship, the Namsenford, is of 500 tons and has the lines of the ordinary vessel. It has shown its staunchness by recently completing a trip from Christiania to England without mishap. This ship is not merely an experiment. About fifteen similar vessels have been built and several more are under construction at the same shipyards. One of the vessels will be of 4,000 tons, another of 1,600 and another of 1,000. All of them will use oil-burning engines and will have a speed of 10 to 12 miles an hour. Besides these freighters, a government lightship, a tugboat and two floating docks are under way.

The hull is four inches thick below the water line, and above it tapers to a thickness of only two and a half inches. Steel bars and lath form the framework. The latter acts just as lath on the wall does, holding the

concrete together firmly. Cement is applied to the outside to make the surface smooth and then is rubbed down below the water line till it is almost as smooth as steel would be. The waterproofing material is mixed with the concrete and dries with it. As soon as it gets wet when the ship is launched, it swells and prevents the water from seeping into the concrete to weaken it.

Here again necessity has been the mother of invention, as it has been all through the war. The shipbuilding industry may be revolutionized through this achievement. Certainly, if science can reduce the thickness of the hull so that these vessels will not be handicapped by their great weight, a tremendous change will be wrought. In any event, a new obstacle for the U-boat has appeared.

1917

Very soon we shall be writing 1917, then looking at it in surprise and changing the seven to an eight. If it were not for the different figure, we should probably not know that we had gone into a new year.

But with the realization that another New Year is so close, a mood of retrospection comes upon us, and we look back with some interest over the last year. It has been a queer year, a very different year from any we had known before.

The big event, of course, has been the declaration of war. It has seemed like a wild dream, the arming and training of men, the building of ships, the constructing of strange craft which skim the air. By the first days of 1918 we shall have got used to the sight of khaki and blue and white instead of the usual black and white in masculine array.

There have been other things besides war in the year just past. There have been advances along all the lines of invention and discovery. There has been great prosperity. The United States is the foremost commercial Nation of the world and is looked to for many of the necessities and comforts of life.

That is not all. In the memorable year 1917 there have been fought battles which will go down in history; there have been decisions made which will some day be listed as among the greatest the world has known. All-embracing democracy has reached out her arms to Russia, the land of the oppressed, and drawn her into the fold. The name of Verdun will not be effaced when 1917 is over, and our own Pershing's name will have been added to the roll of fame.

Yes, 1917 has been a wonderful year. The year of 1918—may it mark the end of strife and the full consummation of all we hold dear!

## PATRIOTISM FOR THE YOUNG

Nathan Hale regretted that he had only one life to lose for his country. Let's make the children of America love their country so much that they will regret that they have only one life to live for theirs.

Let's teach them the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; and at the same time teach them that, with all its faults, America is the best place on earth.

It is not necessary for the child to hate other countries in order to love his own; he does not hate his playmate's parents because he loves his own more. Teach the child to respect the flag, tell him why he should love it, and when he becomes a man he will never be reprimanded for disrespect.

Parents want their children to love and respect them and will not employ anyone who might teach them otherwise. If we take extra precautions in the home to teach children to be loyal to that home, why not take precautions in the schools and be sure that those who teach young Americans will teach them to be young Americans?

The same New York society women who two years ago danced and had their teas all winter are reported this week as having joined the ranks of snow shovelers to help relieve the labor shortage there. Which is just another argument in favor of women's suffrage.

A noted linguist is now chopping wood in the army, says a news dispatch. The public wishes that some other linguists might be drafted for that purpose before they talk themselves to death.

German efficiency failed to mark one "Made in Germany" product. At least, we had never recognized the mark. Monkeys are reported scarce and high-priced because the German exportation has ceased.

The housekeeper who has learned the three S's—sacrifice, substitution and saving—is as much a soldier as the man who carries a gun.

After all, meatless days are not so bad. If we were vegetarians, there would be 365 of them in one year.

## EARLY TREATMENT WILL CURE SPINAL MENINGITIS

Cerebro-spinal meningitis, which has been causing considerable illness in army camps, is a contagious disease most common in the fall, winter and spring months, according to a press bulletin of the preventive medicine department of the University of Missouri. The disease is caused by a germ which gets into the body through the nose or throat. The germ makes its way into the covering of the brain and causes an inflammation with a formation of pus in the brain cavities. Meningitis germs, like pneumonia germs, are carried in the noses of many people, even though they have not the disease. When the body is weakened from overexposure of cold or some disease, these germs overcome body resistance and the patient may develop meningitis. It is transmitted to other people in the same manner as colds and other contagious diseases, which is by close contact with the person having the disease.

Meningitis begins with fever which is more or less sudden, severe pain in the head and back of the neck with a drawing of the head backward, and discharge from the nose similar to a cold. The pains increase in intensity rather rapidly. The temperature gets higher and the patient has convulsions. These convulsions may continue at short periods until the patient becomes weak and unconscious. Until a few years ago, the death rate of meningitis was from 70 to 80 per cent for all those who had it. The discovery of a serum which is injected into the spinal canal of the patient changes the death rate exactly around, that is, from 15 to 20 per cent and from 80 to 85 per cent get well. The treatment and cure of meningitis depend entirely upon beginning early. Nearly all cases can be saved if treatment is administered on the first day or two of the disease. The disease is diagnosed by getting a few drops of the spinal fluid from the lower part of the spine.

Meningitis is prevented from spreading by keeping the patient away from others and disinfecting all clothes, dishes, and material which come in contact with the patient. The most effective way to keep the disease from spreading is to keep all buildings where a considerable number of persons gather well ventilated. Light is also essential in all buildings such as school houses, or any public buildings. Treating the noses and throats of persons who carry the germs, until they are rid of the organisms, is essential in preventing the spread of the disease.

## SOCIETY NOTES

The sixteenth annual dinner of the Kansas City Alumni Chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity will be given at 7:30 o'clock Friday night at the Hotel Muehlebach. The membership there, including alumni and active members from the Missouri and Kansas chapters, is about 110.

A Christmas assembly dance was given last night at the Daniel Boone Tavern. About fifty couples attended.

Mrs. A. J. Estes gave a dinner party Monday night for her son, Denny, who will leave tomorrow for Jacksonville, Fla. The guests were: Misses Frances and Helen Mitchell, Eleanor Taylor and Elizabeth Estes, Mrs. Everett Manning, Mrs. Joseph Estes, Porter Mitchell and Thomas Taylor. The table was decorated with flags and Christmas greens.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Neate and sons are spending the holidays at Paris with Mrs. Neate's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Buckner.

Misses Rebecca and Lucile Evans will have a line party tomorrow afternoon for Miss Laura Stephens of Kansas City, who is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. E. W. Stephens.

The following guests will attend: Misses Jennie Hockaday, Exie Gray, Katherine Conley, Dorothy Logan, Mary Banks, Esther Hill, Jessie Lansing, Queen Smith, Sabra Niedermeyer, Mary Susan Estes, Virginia Rodgers and Dorothy Dorsey.

John N. Taylor, Jr., will return to Fort Sill, Okla., tomorrow after spending Christmas Day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John N. Taylor.

Miss Mary Banks will have an informal knitting party Friday afternoon for Miss Frances Hunt. Those invited are: Misses Frances Hunt, Elizabeth Estes, Katherine Mumford, Frances Ross, Rebecca and Lucile Evans, Exie Gray, Augusta Spencer, Dorothy Clark and Grace Short.

Mrs. Stanley Smith left this morning for St. Louis to spend the rest of the week.

Mrs. Eldon R. James will have a buffet supper tomorrow night for Miss Mary Louise Brown and Miss Katherine Jones. The guests will be: Misses Mary Louise Brown, Katherine

Jones, Marjorie Jones, Edith Miller, Marcia Bailey, Anna Pape, Edith Altman, Mary and Adeline Jesse, Jessie Hill, Ruth and Margaret Rollins, and Richard Jesse, Herbert Reese, A. P. Lewin, Horace Major, Clifford Brown, Frank Rollins, Bredelle Jesse and Wilson Smith. The supper will be meatless and wheatless, in strict accordance with war time regulations.

Mrs. Bettie Hubbell Hickman and daughter, Lavinia left this morning for Poplar Bluff to spend a week with Mrs. Hickman's sister, Mrs. John Sykes.

The local chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812 will meet tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 at the home of Mrs. E. W. Stephens.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Robnett and sons, Barton, Dudley and Overton, spent Christmas Day in Fulton with Dr. and Mrs. E. L. Spence.

Miss Katherine Mumford gave an informal luncheon today in honor of Miss Frances Hunt. The following guests were there: Misses Frances Hunt, Mary Banks, Elizabeth Estes, Augusta Spencer and Frances Ross.

Miss Juliet Bowling will leave Friday for St. Joseph to be the guest of Mrs. Harry Broadhead for the rest of the holidays.

Misses Margaret and Dorothy Mumford will have an informal card party tonight for Miss Mary Louise Brown. The guests will be: Misses Mary Louise Brown, Carolyn Pickard, Adeline Jesse, Marian and Louise Babb and Jessie Hill.

Miss Jane Rodgers went to Mexico Monday to spend Christmas Day. From there she will go to Kansas City to be the guest of Misses Estelle

Stone and Esther Robinson for the rest of the holidays.

Mrs. F. B. Mumford and daughter, Dorothy, will leave Monday for St. Louis to spend a few days.

Miss Corinne Kramer of East St. Louis arrived today to spend the week-end with Miss Jean Bright.

Mrs. E. S. Cave and daughter, Helen, are spending the holidays in Mexico visiting relatives.

Some of the Columbia boys who were home from their military camps for Christmas were: Willis Murray and Dr. Lemuel Crouch from Camp Funston, Edward Thornton from Jefferson Barracks and John N. Taylor, Jr., from Fort Sill.

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St. Augustine, Fla.	48.15	Fort Worth, Tex.	26.40
St. Petersburg, Fla.	57.45	Galveston, Tex.	35.05
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New Orleans, La.	35.60	San Antonio, Tex.	35.30
Pass Christian, Miss.	35.60	Charleston, S. C.	43.10

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